GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3219
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2017
Forestry Research
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the institutions under the Ministry which is undertaking holistic research on forestry species in the country along with the fund allocated/released/utilized in this regard during each of the last three years and the current year, institution-wise;
(b) whether the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), Dehradun have developed 20 high yielding varieties of plant species recently;
(c) if so, the details thereof along with the characteristics of the said plant species;
(d) whether the Government has granted approval for release of the said plant species and if so, the details thereof; and
(e) the details of the steps taken/being taken by the Government to carry out holistic research on forestry species and to improve yield, quality and productivity of plant species in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a) Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), Dehradun, an autonomous organisation under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF & CC) is undertaking holistic research on forestry species through its nine research institutes situated in the different agro-climatic zones of the country. They are Himalayan Forest Research Institute, Shimla, Forest Research Institute, Dehradun, Tropical Forest Research Institute, Jabalpur, Arid Forest Research Institute, Jodhpur, Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat, Institute of Forest Productivity, Ranchi, Institute of Forest Biodiversity, Hyderabad, Institute of Wood Science & Technology, Bangalore and Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore. The details of budget allocation to ICFRE is as under:-

(Rs. In Crore)

Year	Allotment	Release	Utilised
2013-14	142.91	142.91	142.10
2014-15	149.08	149.08	140.80
2015-16	138.90	138.90	141.36
2016-17	163.20	163.20	163.20

Research (Rs. In Crore)

Year	Allotment	Release	Utilised
2013-14	6.11	6.11	6.34
2014-15	5.19	5.19	5.00
2015-16	1.16	1.16	1.14
2016-17	6.21	6.21	6.21

(b) Yes, 20 high yielding varieties of plant species have been recently developed at three institutes of ICFRE, details of which are as under:-

(i) Forest Research Institute, Dehradun has developed 10 high yielding varieties of Melia dubia Cav. and 03 varieties of Eucalyptus tereticornis.

(ii) Tropical Forest Research Institute, Jabalpur has developed 02 high yielding varieties of Sarpagandha (Rauvolfia serpentina Benth ex. Kurz) - a medicinal plant.

(iii) Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore has developed 05 inter-specific hybrid clones of Casuarina equisetifolia X C. junghuhniana.

(c) The details are as under:-

(i)The 10 newly developed varieties of Melia dubia are highly productive and are recommended for commercial cultivation in different regions of the states of Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand. These varieties also have better adaptability to various geographical localities.

(ii)The three recently released clones of Eucalyptus has been recommended for commercial cultivation in the states of Haryana,

Punjab and Uttar Pradesh.

(iii)Two varieties of Rauvolfia serpentina (Sarpagandha) namely, TFRI-RS 1 and TFRI-RS 2 has exhibited high total alkaloid content i.e. 2.72% and 3.18% and high root yield 28.56 g/plant and 22.56 g/plant respectively.

(iv)Five inter-specific hybrid clones of Casuarina are fast growing, possessing straight stems and high pulp content and tolerant to drought and pest attack. On an average they produce 30% more wood than the varieties currently cultivated by farmers and industries.

(d)Yes, in the meeting of Variety Releasing Committee held on 27.02.2017 under the Chairmanship of Director General of Forest & Special Secretary, MoEF & CC, the said varieties have been released.

(e) ICFRE and its Institutes under MoEF & CC are carrying research on various forestry species of different agro-climatic zones to improve productivity and their quality. ICFRE and its Institutes have released 47 high yielding and adaptable clones/varieties over the past ten years through its research programs. Whenever a new variety is released a complete package of practice is also developed for the benefit of the user. Development of varieties of other species like Teak, Gmelina, Melia, Ailanthus, Acacia, Tamarind and Bamboo etc. are also under various stages of their development.

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